

soon fall into the hands of the mounted police. In towns, local government is well organized and law is respected. The "border ruffian" has never held sway. The desperado class is unknown. This is due to the system of federal control which went in advance of settlement.

The taxing system contributes to respect for government and offers many suggestions for the United States, although it will be greatly modified with the increase of population and with the agencies and expenditures of civilized life. At present the expenses of provincial

government are borne by the Dominion out of federal revenues, and the tendency of this method must be to reconcile farmers to a tariff which raises the prices of farming machinery, to give them a stronger attachment to the national institutions, and to increase the central control over provincial policies. The sentiment of nationality is already strong in the whole extent of Canada. The systems of railroad and inland waterway transportation independent of the United States are at once a symbol and a stimulus of this sentiment.

## AN ECHO OF THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS CAMPAIGN

**T**HE voluminous collections of historical material regarding Abraham Lincoln have left little room for new facts about his life in Illinois during the fifties. The famous senatorial campaign against Stephen A. Douglas has been described so often and so much in detail that even a slight addition to the incidents of that great struggle is of no slight interest.

The original letter, of which a photographic reproduction appears herewith, was addressed by Mr. Lincoln to Honorable Martin P. Sweet, a prominent citizen and lawyer of Freeport, Ill. The incident referred to occurred at Jonesboro, Ill., where was held the third of the joint debates between Mr. Lincoln and Senator Douglas in the campaign of 1858. The two previous joint discussions had occurred, the first at Ottawa, August 21, and the second at Freeport, August 27, 1858.

The reference to Mr. Sweet in the published speech of Mr. Lincoln is as follows. After reading a letter of Mr. T. Campbell as indicating the position of a friend of Mr. Douglas and thus of Mr. Douglas himself, Mr. Lincoln went on to say:

When Judge Douglas and myself spoke at Freeport in joint discussion, there was his same friend Campbell, come all the way from California to help the judge beat me; and there was

poor Martin P. Sweet standing on the platform trying to help poor me to be elected. That is true of one of Judge Douglas's friends.

The letter to Mr. Sweet was designed to correct any false impression that might have been made by this incidental reference, and is as follows:

CENTRALIA, September 11, 1858.

HON. M. P. SWEET.

MY DEAR SIR,—Yesterday Douglas and I met at Jonesboro. A very trifling thing occurred which gave me a little uneasiness. I was, at the suggestion of friends, putting in some resolutions and the like of abolition caste passed by Douglas's friends some time ago as a set off to his attempt of a like character against me. Among others I put the question to T. Campbell, and his answers to them in 1850, when you and he ran for Congress. As my attention was divided, half lingering upon that case and half advancing to the next, I mentioned your name as Campbell's opponent in a confused sentence which, when I heard it myself, struck me as having something disparaging to you in it. I instantly corrected it and asked the reporters to suppress it, but my fear now is that those villainous reporters Douglas has with him will try to make something of it. I do not myself exactly remember what it was, so little connection had it with any distinct thought I had in my mind, and I really hope no more may be heard of it, but if there should, I write this to assure you that nothing can be farther from me than to feel, much less say, anything disrespectful to you. I sincerely hope you may hear nothing of it except what I have written.

Yours very truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Centerville Sept 11 1858  
Hon. Mr P. Sweet

My dear Sir

Yesterday Douglas and I met at Jonesboro. A very trifling thing occurred which gives <sup>me</sup> a little pleasure. I was, at the suggestion of friends, putting in some resolutions and the like of abolition casts, pinned by Douglas friends, some time ago, as a set-off to his attempt of a like character against me. Among other I put the questions to J. Campbell and his answers to them, in 1850 when you and he ran for Congress. As my attention was aroused, half paying upon that case, and half answering to the present one, I mentioned your name, as Campbell's opponent, in a comparative sentence, which, when I heard it myself, struck me as having something of a parody to you in it. I instantly corrected it and asked the reporter to suppress it; but my fear now is that those precise our reporter Douglas has with him will try to make something out of it. I do not myself exactly remember what it was, so better connect it with my current thought in my mind, and I really hope no one may be aware of it; but if then please, I write this to assure you that nothing can be farther from me than to feel, much less, intentionally say anything disrespectful to you.

I sincerely hope you may hear nothing of it except what I have written.

Yours very truly.

A. Lincoln

FACSIMILE OF A LETTER FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN

This letter was written fifty years ago to Martin P. Sweet of Freeport, Ill., for the purpose of forestalling any misinterpretation of an expression in Lincoln's speech